

**Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors
Minutes**

April 28, 2017

Carroll County Circuit Courthouse, Westminster, MD

The meeting of **The Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD)** began at 10:00 a.m.

The following people attended: Flossie Barnes (Carroll County), Tonya Baroudi (Prince George's County), Joanie Bellistri (Anne Arundel County), Sandy Brewer (Howard County), James Durham (Maryland State Law Library), Mary Jo Lazun (Charles County), Kate Martin (Montgomery County), Catherine McGuire (Maryland State Law Library), and Lonni Summers (Administrative Office of the Courts).

Welcome: Tonya Baroudi, CMCLLD Chair, opened the meeting. **The Honorable Thomas F. Stansfield**, Carroll County Circuit Judge, welcomed the group to the Carroll County Courthouse.

The group then relocated to the grand jury room for a presentation on the conservation of rare books by **Jenn Foltz Cruickshank** of the Maryland State Archives. Jenn is the lead conservator and spoke about these important preservation issues:

- Books are complex objects that have unique histories – they may consist of paper (rag or wood pulp), textiles (natural or synthetic), leather (different types of animal skins), glue and wood.
- Weather (heat, humidity, cold), insects, spores, mold and even dust can affect the "health" of a book.
- Human contact gradually wears away at the book's integrity.
- Best shelving is powder-coated metal and the least stressful position of a book is horizontal. Books should not touch the back of the bookcase or the wall.
- Boxing a book gives it protection from humidity, light and temperature changes. Mylar and Tyvek offers the best wrapping and unbuffered is better versus buffered materials.
- Red rot, a menace to books, is a breakdown of leather or animal products that can ruin books. It cannot be reversed and affects most books that were made in the 1800's with "acid tanning."

Franz A. Haux, of Lexis' digital library, gave a demonstration of their products, now in use at the state law library and among the circuit court judges.

- Lexis has developed a customized digital library of 22 titles using Overdrive. Access is 24/7 and titles can be checked out for a limited period.

- Users just need an Internet connection and titles can be viewed on tablets, e-readers and other mobile devices. Use this link: [//www.ebooks.law.overdrive.com](http://www.ebooks.law.overdrive.com) to access content.
- After pulling up the correct content page, users can click **borrow**, then **search**, and finally **read**. Books will then launch in the browser. Navigation aids include search and a clickable table of contents.
- Search history and notes pages can be downloaded to Google Drive and they are unique for each user. Sections can be “chunked” for downloading.
- Support is available at **(877) 516-8256** or **digital.library.support.lexisnexis.com**.
- Ebook access is in its early stages and will only get better.

Lunch was served at noon.

The minutes of the January 30th CMCLLD meeting were **approved**.

Elections for 2017-19 were held. **Kate Martin** was nominated for Chair and **Flossie Barnes** for vice-chair. **Mary Jo Lazun** will be the backup to Flossie. This slate was approved by the CMCLLD membership unanimously.

Joanie Bellistri reported on activities of the Self-Represented Litigant Subcommittee of the Maryland Court Access and Community Relations Committee. The subcommittee is discussing ways to meet the needs of rural districts that don't have access to law libraries.

A lively discussion followed with members suggesting ways that the Conference can assist:

- Marketing court libraries – we can offer triage -- what nobody else can do, i.e., we can go deeper than the short answers that the AOC Self-Help Center can give
- Developing a mobile legal library that can tour the state and be at places at regular, set times
- Creating legal information kiosks/public access computers in rural areas that that can connect to legal information and experienced legal info providers
- Promoting our role as navigators and the library as an information hub within the courthouse

Joanie also encouraged attendance at the upcoming **Maryland Partners for Justice Conference** on May 18th at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Joanie Bellistri updated the group on court reference statistics gathered for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). She will collect and distribute these statistics at the end of the fiscal year. Joanie asked that conference members input their statistics by the 15th of the following month.

Joanie Bellistri and **Catherine McGuire** gave an update on UELMA – the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act, which sets out a uniform, vendor-neutral way to cite digital legal materials. After several tries, it passed both Maryland Houses and became the law of the land. Kudos to Mary Jo, Steve, Catherine and Joanie for the success of this effort.

Joanie Bellistri and **Catherine McGuire** also discussed the Maryland Access to Justice Commission (ATJC) proposal to develop support and training for public librarians. They have been speaking with **Reena Shah**, the ATJC executive director, about getting the CMCLLD involved. Among the issues discussed were:

- James asked, “What legal research training have public librarians already received?”
- Catherine suggested developing a training program that is uniform across the state, trains in small groups, emphasizes legal information over legal advice and could in time be developed into a day-long program. Catherine has worked with the Maryland Library Association and given programs on legal research to public librarians in the past.
- Mary Jo reviewed the expansion of the new family law self-help notebook across the state and how some of our ideas could be similarly expanded.
- Joanie reminded members of comparable successful marketing programs: Lawyer in the Library, the Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service and others.
- More extensive external and internal marketing of the circuit court law libraries: rebranding needed? Who are our major patrons? How does this echo the mission of the state library: Access – Learn – Connect?

Tonya Baroudi informed the Conference that she is working on the 2016-17 CMCLLD annual report and requested input.

Tonya Baroudi ended the meeting by announcing the next CMCLLD meeting would be at the state library on July 5th. [It has since been changed to September 11th.] Tonya was complimented on her superior service to the CMMCLLD at the end of her two-year term as chair.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.